from over 200 drug companies due from them under the Drug Price Equalisation Account;

(b) since when the dues have been lying unrealised; and

(c) what are the reasons for delay in the realisation of the dues ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) A sum of Rs. 17.89 crores has been recovered from 29 companies and deposited into the Drug Price Equalisation Account. In respect of the bulk of the recoveries, there are various stay orders or other orders of courts that have effectively prevented the Government from proceeding with the process of recoveries. In the other cases, the computed figures have been disputed and the parties are being given hearings at their request.

Koodankulam Atomic Power Project

379. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps to implement the Koodangulam Atomic Power Project with the participation of the Southern State Electricity Boards alongwith Nuclear Power Corporation;

(b) whether the size of the project has been reduced from the original proposal and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what would be the pattern of power sharing by the States; and

(d) what would be the revised cost of the project as proposed now ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) to (d) As per Inter-Governmental Agreement of 1988 between the Government of India and the erstwhile Soviet Union, an atomic power station with 200×100 MWe Reactors was envisaged at Koodankulam. In view of the developments in the erstwhile Soviet Union while continuing the dialogue with the Russians, alternative modes of implementation including setting up of two units of 500 MWe Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors with financial participation by the beneficiary States is being considered by the Nuclear Power Corporation but these proposals are still at a very preliminary stage.

Emission of Radioactivity in Villages of Himachal Pradesh

380. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has drawn to the study undertaken by Prof. Surender Singh of Guru Nanak Dev University stating that a heavy volume of radioactive emission, prolonged exposure to which causes lung cancer and other similar ailments, has been detected in several villages in Himachal Pradesh ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that radioactivity far in excess of prescribed safety norms has been detected in villages in Hamirpur and Barsar Remeda areas of Himachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore and Government's reaction thereto ; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to protect the people of these villages from the exposure of radioactivity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of a project undertaken by Prof. Surender Singh of Guru Nanak Dev University on 'Radon Pollution studies in the human environment.' Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas and is produced by the radioactive decay of uranium which also occurs naturally in the soil everywhere in differing concentrations. Radon concentrations in the atomsphere therefore show large variations. Prof. Surender Singh has stated that the results obtained are of a preliminary nature and